

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Official Action of February 26, 2003, in which the Examiner (1) rejected the drawings because of the omission of reference numbers in Fig. 1A, (2) rejected claims 1 through 8, 10, 12, 15 through 21, and 23 through 26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by European Patent No. 0,621,563, issued to Long ("**Long**") (2) rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 12 through 14, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,264,665 issued to Delfer, III ("**Delfer**"), and (3) rejected claims 11 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over **Long** in view of **Delfer**.

Specification

The specification has been amended to change the reference number "127" to "174". The use of "127" was a typographical error. It is believed such correction of the specification obviates the need for adding the reference number "127" to Fig. 1A of the Drawings as requested by the Examiner.

Drawings

Applicant has provided a replacement sheet for adding reference number "130" to Fig 1A. The reference number "127" has not been added to Fig 1A since such change is obviated by correction of the Specification as noted above.

Claims

Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 15, cancelled claims 3, 5, 17, and 23 through 26, and added new claims 27 through 34.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites the steps of "printing at the system an identifier on one of the components forming the mailing unit after that one of the components has been provided to the system, wherein the identifier may be used in identifying the components of the mailing unit", and "reading the identifier to determine

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the components of the mailing unit". Such steps, when combined with the other steps recited in claim 1, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by either **Long** or **Delbert**.

For example, **Long** shows a system having a hopper 30 for receiving data cards 32 that each have a data record thereon (prior to placement in the hopper). **Delbert** shows storing weight and thickness data for inserts and envelopes in data files 35 (rather than being printed on a component of the mailing unit). In neither reference is an identifier printed on a mailing unit component by a printer in the system after the component is provided to the system, as disclosed by Applicants and as recited in amended independent method claim 1. Similar recitations are also now in amended independent system claim 15, and in new independent claims 27 and 31.

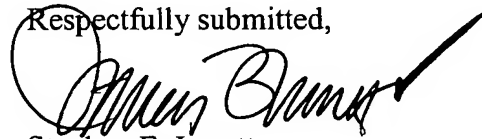
The pending dependent claims recite further limitations in combination with those recited in independent claims 1, 15, 27 and 31 and are thus likewise believed allowable over the references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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